

11. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said structure includes a via extending between opposite sides of said further shield through said second end of said conductive element.

*Am*  
~~12. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said slot has edges on opposite sides thereof which each follow a predetermined curve other than a first-order exponential curve.~~

*Am*  
13. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim <sup>5</sup>~~12~~, wherein said predetermined curve for each said edge is configured to facilitate minimization of return loss for electromagnetic signals induced within said slot portion through said elongate conductive element.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said slot has a further end remote from said one end thereof; and including a refracting layer extending approximately perpendicular to a centerline of said slot at a location beyond said further end of said slot, said refracting layer being made of a material which is transmissive to and effects refraction of electromagnetic signals in a selected frequency range that travel in one of two opposite directions along said slot.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 14, including a further layer which extends approximately perpendicular to said centerline of said slot and which is disposed adjacent said refracting layer on a side thereof remote from said slot, said further layer being made of a material which is transmissive to and effects refraction of the electromagnetic signals in said selected frequency range which are traveling in one of said two opposite directions along said slot.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said refracting and further layers are respective portions of a radome.

17. (Allowed) An apparatus, comprising: